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LETTER DATED 18 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Ministry of Defence of the Azerbaijani Republic, regarding the latest acts of aggression by the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan, as received by fax.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 16 December 1993 by the Ministry
of Defence of the Azerbaijani Republic

On 10 December, the armed forces of Armenia shattered the relative calm which had prevailed along the front and, in a large-scale offensive, repeatedly attempted to effect a breakthrough in south-western Azerbaijan in the area of Beilagan district capital and in the district of the same name. The Armenian command in this sector committed significant forces to the effort, including armour and artillery.

On 10 December, after a preliminary artillery bombardment involving two battalions and up to 20 tanks, the Armenian forces attacked positions of the Azerbaijani national army in Beilagan sector. They succeeded in penetrating the defensive formations of the Azerbaijani forces to a depth of 2.5 kilometres. The following day (11 December), the enemy was driven back to its former positions, but did not abandon the attempt to break through the Azerbaijani army's defences. Having repeated their attacks, once on 12 December and twice on 13 December, the Armenian forces pulled back their tanks further north, to a position facing Agjabedi district. After suffering a defeat in a tank battle, the Armenian forces regrouped and on 15 December once again carried out two attacks against the same sector of the front, again unsuccessfully. Today, 16 December, the enemy has fired on the territory of Beilagan district using Grad rocket launchers and artillery.

Over the period 10-16 December, the Armenian forces lost nine armoured vehicles and more than 100 men. Azerbaijani losses totalled seven tanks and more than 50 soldiers. There is evidence that the Armenians have committed atrocities against the bodies of Azerbaijani troops.

As a result, the efforts of Azerbaijan's leaders to bring about a peaceful settlement of the conflict have once again been thwarted. In the aftermath of the offensive, a threat hangs over the peaceful inhabitants of the Beilagan and Agjabedi districts and over the more than 100,000 refugees from the occupied districts of Azerbaijan who are now living there.

The Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan states that, by its most recent acts, Armenia has once again demonstrated its unwillingness to settle the protracted conflict through a process of negotiations and has revealed its aim of seizing additional territory in Azerbaijan and solving the problem by means of force, using these lands to bargain for the annexation of Karabakh. In this connection, the Ministry of Defence feels duty-bound to warn that the responsibility for the consequences of such a policy of aggression will rest with the Republic of Armenia.
